

First Steps Providers Meeting

February 9, 2011

9:00 to 11:00 am

Conference Call/Webinar

Facilitator: Kathi LLOYD

Minutes: Becky Peters, Diane Bailey

Attendees: DOH- Diane Bailey, Kathy Chapman, Cynthia Huskey, Kathi LLOYD, Rebecca Peters-DOH, Jennifer Hansen, MPA-Todd Slettvet & June Hershey. 136 MSS/ICM providers.

AGENDA ITEM	Presenter	DISCUSSION/DECISIONS	ACTION ITEMS
Welcome and Introductions	Kathi L.		
Legislative Update on the MSS/ICM	Todd S. Kathy C.	<p>Medicaid Purchasing Administration (MPA) - Todd</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPA was asked to submit to Office of Financial Management, brief descriptions of what MSS/ICM would look like with 1/3, 1/2, and 2/3 budget reductions. MPA was instructed to proceed preparing for a 50% budget reduction for March 1, 2011. The legislature is looking at all options and will have the final say on the supplemental budget. We have had to move ahead with plans for 50% reduction because of the amount of work that needs to be completed by March 1st, 2011. Currently there are discussions among legislative staff about reducing the program by 35% rather than 50% but it is unknown at this time what the final budget will be. <p>DOH- Kathy C</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Department of Health: All program administration activities for MSS are transferring to MPA. The 5 DOH FTE's involvement with MSS/ICM/CBE will end on March 1st, 2011, leaving less than 1 DSHS FTE to manage the entire program. DOH staff is working with DSHS staff to complete the transition. 	Providers will be notified through the First Steps website as soon as any future budget decisions are made.
Current Budget	Todd S.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2009, the MSS/ICM budget was approximately \$24.5 million - the program was directed to make a 20% reduction resulting in a projected budget of \$19.5 million. The billing for the period 7/09 – 6/10 ended up being closer to \$15 million dollars, partially because of some providers ceasing to provide service. Due to the current state budget crisis the 50% budget reduction was based on the \$15 million, and will leave MSS/ICM/CBE with a \$7.5 million operating budget. This \$7.5 Million is ½ state dollars and ½ Federal Medicaid dollars. 	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The use of Medicaid dollars requires that a level of service be maintained for all women eligible for MSS/ICM services. The only feasible option to make changes by March 1st, to meet the budget and provide some level of services for all women was to leave the current model the same but reduce the number of units per level of service. 	
March 1, 2011 Transition Plan	Cynthia H.	Follow Handout on Unit Allocation starting March 1st. Key point: Treat MSS and ICM eligibility periods separately. Determine the client's unit allocation based on when the 1 st billable service was provided and the client risk factors. See examples on power point.	
Provider Input	June H.	Provider input will be important in determining how MSS/ICM/CBE services can be provided under the current budget climate. The state is still exploring ideas that have been suggested in the past i.e. groups, however some suggestions need approval from CMS (Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services). The earliest any program design changes could be made would be January 2012, but more likely toward July 2012. No matter what is decided, the program is required to provide some level of service to all Medicaid eligible women and provide the highest level of care to the women at highest risk of poor birth outcomes.	Directions on how to submit input will be posted on the First Steps website
Program Communication	June H.	Due to the reduction in the number of staff who have traditionally been available to provide technical assistance to the First Steps program, The level of response and technical assistance that was available to providers in the past will be markedly reduced. Updates/changes will be posted on the First Steps Website. It will be up to providers to check the Provider page on the First Steps website for updated information. That link is: http://hrsa.dshs.wa.gov/firststeps/Provider.shtml	Send a link to website to all providers June's e-mail address is firststeps@dshs.wa.gov